

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04818 251850 Z

50

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OPR-02 PPT-02 EB-11 COME-00 NIC-01

EUR-25 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

PM-09 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 SY-10 USSS-00 M-03

IO-12 OC-06 CCO-00 A-01 OMB-01 /128 W

----- 030846

R 251528 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1837

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4818

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, LE, PINS

SUBJECT: TRAVEL TO LEBANON

REF: A. STATE 75427; B. BEIRUT 4477

1. WE BELIEVE THAT LOCAL SECURITY SITUATION IS BECOMING CLEARER AND IS, IN FACT, IMPROVING FROM STANDPOINT ORDINARY TOURISTS AND TRAVELLERS, INCLUDING AMERICANS. DEGREE OF ANTI- AMERICAN INCITEMENT HAS DIMINISHED. IN AFTERMATH NO- PROVOCATIVE SC ACTION THERE HAVE BEEN NO RECENT SIGNS OF ANY INTENTION BY FEDAYEEN TO DELIBERATELY SINGLE OUT ORDINARY AMERICAN CITIZENS FOR ATTACK, AND CHANCES OF SPONTANEOUS ANTI- AMERICAN ACT ARE REDUCED. AS WE HAVE REPORTED SEPARATELY, PRESIDENT FRANGIE SPOKE VERY FIRMLY TO ' ARAFAT ABOUT THIS SORT OF PROBLEM ON APRIL 17. EASTER WEEKEND SAW WELL PUBLICIZED AND ENTIRELY PEACEFUL MARCH BY OVER 100 PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM BEIRUT TO SIDON IN SYMBOLIC SUPPORT OF RIGHT OF PALESTINIAN RETURN. BELIEVE MARCH IN BALANCE WAS HELPFUL. GOL AUTHORITIES REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZE TO EMBASSY THAT AMERICAN TOURISTS MOST WELCOME AND GOL HAS ALERTED SECURITY FORCES TO PROTECT THEM. SECURITY MEASURES AT BOTH BEIRUT PORT AND AIPORT HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY TIGHTENED.

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2. AT SAME TIME, WE BELIEVE THERE IS CONTINUING THREAT
TO EMBASSY, AND PROBABLY ALSO TO SOME USG EMPLOYEES AND
SYMBOLIC PRIVATE AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS (E. G., COMPA
THE CURRENT CRITICAL SITUATION. PORTER
UNQUOTE
PORTER

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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